What is claimed is:

      1.    A communication switch comprising a plurality of input channels and a plurality of output channels for switching data comprising a plurality of first groups of data transmitted in a predetermined first time order and arranged with respect to said input

5    channels in a predetermined first input channel order and comprising a plurality of second groups of data transmitted in a predetermined second time order and arranged with respect to said input channels in a predetermined second input channel order, the first groups comprising less data than the second groups, said switch comprising in combination:

      a first switch arranged to alter the predetermined first time order of the first

10    groups of data into a predetermined third time order different from said first time order;

      a second switch arranged to alter the predetermined second time order of the second groups of data into a predetermined fourth time order different from the second time order;

      a third switch arranged to order said first groups of data with respect to said

15    output channels in an output channel order different from said first input channel order; and

      a fourth switch arranged to order said second groups of data with respect to said output channels in an output channel order different from said second input channel order.

      2.    A switch as claimed in claim 1, and further comprising:

      a fifth switch arranged to alter the third time order of said first groups of data into a predetermined fifth time order different from said third order; and

a sixth switch arranged to alter the fourth time order of the second groups of

5    data into a predetermined sixth time order different from said fourth time order.

3.    A switch, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said frames comprise SONET

frames.

4.    A switch, as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first groups of data comprise

VT 1.5s and said second groups of data comprise VT 2s.

5.    A method of switching data received on a plurality of input channels to a

plurality of output channels, said data comprising a plurality of first groups of data

transmitted in a predetermined first time order and arranged with respect to said input

channels in a predetermined first input channel order and comprising a plurality of second

5    groups of data transmitted in a predetermined second time order and arranged with respect

to said input channels in a predetermined second input channel order, the first groups

comprising less data than the second groups, said method comprising in combination:

altering the predetermined first time order of the first groups of data into a

predetermined third time order different from said first time order;

10             altering the predetermined second time order of the second groups of data

into a predetermined fourth time order different from the second time order;

ordering said first groups of data with respect to said output channels in an

output channel order different from said first input channel order; and

ordering said second groups of data with respect to said output channels in an

15    output channel order different from said second input channel order.

6.    A method, as claimed in claim 5, and further comprising:

altering the third time order of said first groups of data into a predetermined

fifth time order different from said third order; and

altering the fourth time order of the second groups of data into a

5 predetermined sixth time order different from said fourth time order.

7.    A method, as claimed in claim 5, wherein said frames comprise SONET

frames.

8.    A method, as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first groups of data comprise

VT1.5s and said second groups of data comprise VT2s.